



July 28, 2010

OPEN LETTER TO DEER HUNTERS
BRYAN POYNTER
CHAIR OF THE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION

On behalf of the Natural Resources Commission, I want to comment on the recent preliminary adoption of a deer hunting rule package proposed by the DNR Division of Fish and Wildlife.

One part of the proposal already receiving significant feedback is the proposed shortening of the general firearms and muzzle loader seasons. The Commission is committed not only to the management of the herd, but also the importance of maximizing the opportunity for our citizens to enjoy the State's resources.

In the coming weeks, we will work with DNR staff and biologists to determine if there are compelling reasons to take this step. Based upon those findings, the proposed rules package may be amended; perhaps as early as our September meeting.

Nearly two years ago, the Commission began an unprecedented review of all fish and wildlife rules in an effort to streamline, update, and make them easier to understand. The Commission has insisted on an unrestricted input process and has relied on citizen comments at every point along the way.

The recent proposed deer rule package dovetailed this comprehensive review process. It was presented with support, as well as opposition, and was bold and historic in its scope and intent to change the direction of deer herd management in our state. The Commission understands there are real threats and pressures to aggressively change the course of deer herd management in our state.

The Commission is charged with administering a rule making process that evaluates a wide spectrum of complex issues affecting nearly every Indiana citizen. We use an organizational structure that includes public input and suggestions. In addition to the Commission's hearing officers conducting public hearings where citizen voices and opinions are officially collected and reviewed, we rely on numerous other avenues of input, including the Natural Resources Advisory Council, the Department of Natural

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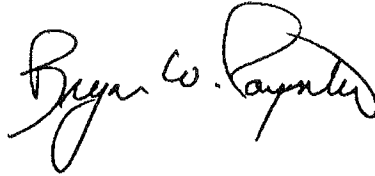
Resources professional biologists and staff, and the DNR communication specialists who gather informal information.

Much like other proposals, the recent deer rule package was brought to the Commission after biological review, stakeholder input, and Division of Fish and Wildlife deliberation. The Commission gave its preliminary approval to the proposed changes. That does not mean, however, the proposed package is beyond further scrutiny.

The Commission is committed to hearing all who care to share their thoughts on the proposed rule changes. Public meetings will be scheduled to gather official comments. Citizens also can go online (<http://www.in.gov/nrc/2386.htm>) to submit comments. The Commission will review all comments. Your voice will be heard.

I encourage you to pass this word so that the nearly 250,000 deer hunters in this state can study the proposals and make their opinions known. We value them and need them.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bryan W. Sawyer". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized initial 'B'.

Chair, Natural Resources Commission